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includes the compensation laws of Europe and other countries, together with statements of proposed legislation in the United States.

The solution offered by the commission takes the form of a proposed bill which provides for a state insurance fund managed by a board of commissioners appointed by the governor. This fund is maintained by premiums to be paid by employers, the premium varying with the nature of the employment. Definite amounts are prescribed to be paid in case of accident. While these are far below the possible amounts obtainable under the old system, they are much above the average that has been received. The constitutional difficulties are avoided by making the insurance optional on the part of the employer; but he is induced to avail himself of it by being deprived of the defenses that he formerly made use of.

The above conclusions were reached after consultation with the best legal and judicial authority available, and after comparison with other laws. In addition hearings were conducted at various points in the state, the results of which are contained in Part II of this report. Further investigations of settlements are included in Part III, which was issued some months after the first two. The report as a whole is valuable in that it presents considerable source material fairly well classified, in addition to the conclusions reached by the investigators.

Farmers of Forty Centuries. By F. H. KING. Madison, Wis.: Published by the author, 1911. 8vo, pp. ix+441. \$2.50.

The investigation of agricultural conditions in China, Japan, and Korea must have been a pleasant undertaking for a man with Dr. King's knowledge of, and interest in, this subject. It is a piece of work earnestly undertaken for the purpose of learning from these people all that is valuable in their long experience as tillers of the soil, and its result is an exposition of methods and conditions of farming which would seem strange indeed to the average American farmer.

To one accustomed to western agricultural methods this description of oriental conditions gives a feeling of cramped and strained living that seems almost unbearable. Yet one must admire any people which can accomplish what they have done under these conditions. In the words of Dr. King, on setting out from the United States "we had left a country which had added eighty-five million to its population in one hundred years and which still has twenty acres for each man, woman, and child, to pass through one [Japan] which has but one and one-half acres per capita, and were going to another [China] whose allotment of acres, good and bad, is less than two and four-tenths. We had gone from practices by which three generations had exhausted strong virgin fields, and were coming to others still fertile after thirty centuries of cropping." Under such conditions very careful methods of agriculture must have been developed to retain this fertility, and that too although the soil in most places is made to yield two, sometimes three or four,

crops a year. The fullest use is made of all available space. Not only are most crops started in nurseries so that they may be well along by the time the fields are ready for their reception, but often the second crop is started in the field, between rows of the first crop before this first has matured. In order that enough nourishment may be returned to the soil depleted by this multiple cropping, every bit of waste must be returned to the fields and in such form as to be most easily assimilated by the crops. To what extent this process of fertilization has been developed is shown in the chapters on "Utilization of Waste" and "Extent of Canalization and Surface Fitting of Fields."

The author especially emphasizes the grasp of principles which is made evident by their practices. This is shown in their appreciation of the value of water in crop production and the methods adopted, especially in connection with rice culture, for full utilization of water supply. It is shown again in the sparse use made of animal products as food, since "by devoting the soil to growing vegetation which man can directly digest they have saved sixty pounds per hundred of absolute waste by the animal." Their use of waste for fertilizers, their system of crop rotation including nitrogen-storing legumes, their economies of time in the use of nurseries, selection of kinds of food to be used as staples, utilization of by-products, all go to prove the author's point that "effective thinking, clear and strong, prevails among the farmers who have fed and are still feeding the dense population from the products of their limited areas."

The time and energy necessary to carry out all these minute economies of cultivation would not of course be available unless labor were cheap and plentiful. In China, farm laborers receive from \$8.60 to \$12.90, gold, per year, with fuel, food, and presents which make a total of \$12.20 to \$21.50. "This is less for the year than we pay for a month of probably less efficient labor. Add to this the great burden of taxation, which amounts to from \$1.98 on upland to \$7.34 per acre on the paddy-fields, and it is not difficult to realize on what a narrow margin the peasant farmer who does his own work, cultivating the average holding of 2.6 acres, must live, even though his crop returns per acre averages \$49.03 for paddy-fields and \$41.36 for upland fields.

Although western nations may never accept such standards as would make living under these conditions possible, their future welfare will require the adoption of some policy of soil conservation, to the formation of which Mr. King's study of oriental practice must contribute much that is of value.

La méthode positive en science économique. By FRANÇOIS SIMIAND.
Paris: Félix Alcan, 1912. 8vo, pp. 208. Fr. 2.50.

The present volume is a contribution to the eternal controversy on method in economic science. It consists of a group of critical studies, which have appeared intermittently in *L'Année sociologique*. The author has brought